

# Voters Asked to Pass on 20 Proposals in November

California voters will decide the fate of 20 proposed constitutional amendments in the general election on Nov. 2, on subjects varying from legislative salaries to the state's fishing industry. As a public service, The HERALD offers below a brief summary of the contents of these proposed changes, and a summation of some of the arguments presented for and against the amendments.

They are as follows:

**Proposition No. 1** — providing for a bond issue of \$175 million dollars, to be used by the Department of Veterans Affairs in aiding war veterans to get homes and farms. This measure would provide for the sale of state bonds, not exceeding \$175,000,000. Proceeds of these sales would be placed in a fund for farm and home purchase in accordance with the Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1945.

Amount of the bonds issued, their maturity date, and the rate of interest (not exceeding five per cent), would be determined by the Veterans' Finance Committee, set up under the 1943 law.

The measure would require maturity dates of the bonds to be fixed so that as closely as possible to the date payments are received from the veterans.

Proponents of the measure point out that present funds previously authorized for veterans' loans are nearly exhausted. Repayments of these loans by veterans have made expenditure of taxpayers' money unnecessary, they declare.

The advantage of the state loans over the federal plan is that veterans can repay the money over a long period of time, they declare. Similar plans were also used for veterans of the first World War.

These bonds fill a need to aid veterans own their own properties, the plan's supporters claim.

**Proposition No. 2** — providing for sale of \$100,000,000 of state bonds to provide loans and grants to school districts, for buying land, school construction, and alteration and equipment. This bill would allow the legislature to pass laws and regulate procedure for carrying out the bond issue. The legislature would be required to set up districts receiving allocation of the funds within the ability of the district to pay.

Under terms of the school building bond act of 1954, the first allocation of money would become available in November, 1955.

With an expected increase of one-third in elementary school population by 1960, some 23,000 new classrooms will be needed, proponents of the measure declare.

Since several hundred school districts have used all available funds, and voted their maximum amount of bonds, they will need additional funds to build necessary schools, proponents point out.

Opponents attack the measure on the grounds that it would effectively increase the state sales tax, on people who can least afford it, while lowering the property tax on people who can better afford to pay.

California school districts are not "impoverished," they declare, but kept from raising enough money by artificial restraints placed on them by the state. They oppose the increased

control of local education by the state.

**Proposition No. 3** — removing supervision of liquor licensing from the State Board of Equalization and placing it under a newly formed Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Under this new plan, the control would be placed under a director appointed by the governor, subject to the approval of the Senate. Removable by the legislature for cause, he would be authorized to hire four persons exempt from civil service. A three-member board appointed by the governor of appeals would hear appeals from decisions of the director, but could do so only on points of law. It could direct a rehearing, but could not limit the discretion vested in the department.

The measure would prohibit state manufacture or sale of liquor, but would allow the legislature to make appropriate regulations concerning alcoholic beverages. It would also allow the legislature to set on-sale license fees, rather than the Board of Equalization.

These proposals would make for a more efficient enforcement, and create a more honest liquor set-up, proponents argue. They attack present methods of liquor control, as revealed in the Weinberger Committee report.

Under the proposed measure, there is no possibility that the liquor director could become a dictator or czar, they claim, because of the checks placed on him. These include the board of appeals, and the legislature. Appeal to the courts is also possible, they point out.

Opponents claim that changing the system of control would remove it from the popularly elected Board of Equalization and place it under a gubernatorial appointee. This would make liquor enforcement an issue in every election, they say.

Persons aggrieved by the director's decisions would lose an effective appeal since the board of appeals cannot change the director's decisions, but only review them, opponents charge. This would make the director a dictator, they say.

On the other hand, the agency could not be independent because both the director and board members can be removed by the legislature, opponents say.

It would also create an added financial burden, they contend.

**Proposition No. 4** — providing for a \$20 increase in the maximum amount which may be paid to the needy aged. At present, the maximum is \$80. The amendment would raise it to \$100, and allow the legislature to increase, but not decrease this amount.

It would appropriate necessary money to meet the increase from the state treasury. It would not prevent the legislature from determining the amount in which counties shall participate.

Supporters of the amendment claim that about two-thirds of

the needy aged are women, who, on the average, receive about \$69 a month. This would be raised to about \$87 under the new law, they say.

Despite claims to the contrary, California is fifth in the nation in the amount paid to the needy aged, they declare. Since California is 23rd in the number of old people, they deny that people are flocking to the state to get pensions.

They point out that the Federal government contributed \$108,000,000 to the program last year, most of which was spent locally. Old people, they declare, need the money to live decently.

The measure's opponents claim the plan is a "grab for political power by George McLain," chairman of the California Institute of Social Welfare. Its passage would threaten the financial structure of the state, and would make the pension system top heavy, causing it to collapse. California payments are higher than in most other places, they claim.

**Proposition No. 5**—continuing exemption of California-registered freight and passenger ships of more than 50 tons from local property taxation.

This would make permanent existing property exemptions enjoyed by larger passenger and freight vessels. It contains much the same provisions as Proposal No. 8, which provides for exemption for vessels over 100 tons. This measure would insure that California vessels would not have taxes placed on them that vessels from other states and



(Herald Photo)

**SALES WINNER** . . . Bobby Graham, 11, of 4710 Sepulveda Blvd., receives a pling-pong set from District Manager Bill Bloomfield for placing fourth in the vacation sales contest for new Torrance HERALD subscriptions.

countries do not have, supporters declare. Taxes would "freeze out" the industry from the state, they say.

Shipping is one of the most important industries in the state, and should be maintained, they urge. Maritime competition is hard enough, they say, without an additional burden.

The measure would give unfair advantage to special interests which operate large passenger and freight ships, and in particular stationary oil tankers acting as "bulk service stations," the measure's enemies state. The bill falls to include the commercial fishing fleet, they say, while allowing foreign fishing fleets to compete on a more than equal basis.

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